

**IN THE CLAIMS**

In this Response, claim 38 has been amended.

Claims 1-37 (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A stent, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end and a middle segment between the first and second ends; and

a plurality of polymeric strips circumferentially spaced from each other around the body of the stent, wherein the plurality of polymeric strips are disposed at or adjacent to the first and/or second end of the stent and do not extend into the middle segment of the body, and wherein the plurality of strips have a modulus of elasticity lower than the body of the stent.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The stent of Claim 38, wherein the plurality of polymeric strips include a drug.

41. (previously presented) The stent of Claim 38, wherein the plurality of polymeric strips include a bioabsorbable material.

42. (previously presented) The stent of Claim 41, wherein the bioabsorbable material is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, water soluble chondroitin sulfate, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(vinyl pyrrolidine), poly(caprolactone-co-ethylene glycol), poly(lactic acid-co-ethylene glycol), polybutylene terephthalate and poly alpha-hydroxy acids.

43. (previously presented) The stent of Claim 40, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of anti-proliferative drugs, anti-platelet drugs, TB3A inhibitors and nitric oxide donors.

Claims 44-64 (canceled)